

Response

Application No. 10/648,283

Attorney Docket No. 031080

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claim 8 has been amended. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated March 15, 2006.

35 USC 112, Second Paragraph Rejection:

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under '112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 18 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. More specifically, it is submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand that claims 1 and 18 each call for a control bias supply circuit that supplies a control bias to the switching transistors, wherein the control bias cuts off all the switching transistors.

In addition, claim 8 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner sets forth the following rejections:

1) claims 1-2, 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hamase (JP Pub No. 2002135095);

2) claims 3, 11 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamase (JP Pub No. 2002135095).

3) claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamase (JP Pub No. 2002135095) in view of Yoshida et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,317,055).

4) claims 5, 7-9, 13 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamase (JP Pub No. 20021 35095) in view of Matsunaga et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 0030016082).

5) claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamase (JP Pub No. 2002135095) in view of Ayasli et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,012,123).

6) claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamase (JP Pub No. 2002135095) in view of Ayasli et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,012,123).

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Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 18:

Claim 1 calls for a control bias supply circuit that supplies a control bias for cutting off all the switching transistors to the switching transistors when all of the switching transistors are in a non-selected state. Similarly, independent claim 18 calls for supplying a control bias for cutting off all the switching transistors to the switching transistors when all the switching transistors are in a non-selected state.

In contrast, according paragraph 0039 of Hamase:

The control voltage to be applied to the gate of each of the FETs 1, 2 and 3 and the control voltage to be applied to the FETs 4, 5 and 6 are complementary to each other. Specifically, in the case where the control voltage to be applied to each of the FETs 1, 2 and 3 is at a high level, the control voltage to be applied to each of the FETs 4, 5 and 6 is at a low level. On the hand, in the case where the control voltage to be applied to each of the FETs 1, 2 and 3 is at a low level, the control voltage to be applied to each of the FETs 4, 5 and 6 is at a high level. In this structure, then, either one of the first path A1 and the second path A2 is in a conductive state.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the FETs 1 – 6 in Hamase are never in the non-selected state, since, as noted above, if FETs 1-3 are in the non-selected state then FETs 4-6 are in the conductive state, and visa versa.

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As such, it is respectfully submitted that Hamase fails to disclose or fairly suggest the features of claim 1 concerning a control bias supply circuit that supplies a control bias for cutting off all the switching transistors to the switching transistors when all of the switching transistors are in a non-selected state and the features of claim 18 concerning supplying a control bias for cutting off all the switching transistors to the switching transistor when all the switching transistors are in a non-selected state.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Hamase fails to disclose or fairly suggest the features of claim 18 concerning switching transistors commonly connected to one of an input terminal, since in Hamase FETs 1-3 and 4-6 are connected in series with each other, respectively.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

• Response

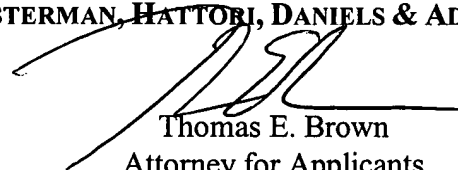
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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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